

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06773 011223Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07

OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCT-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 COME-00

EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00 NEAE-00 /097 W

-----022864 011233Z /45

O R 011105Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2599

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6773

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS NEAR AN END

1. FOUR WEEKS OF DRAMA HAVE PASSED SINCE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH BOTH SIDES SAID SHOULD NOT LAST MORE THAN 48 HOURS, ON A NEW ELECTION ACCORD. IT NOW SEEMS, AT LAST, THAT A DENOUCEMENT IS CLOSE AT HAND. IF AN AGREEMENT IS NOT SIGNED SOON, THE NUMBER OF VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS IN THE STREETS, NOW LIMITED, MAY WELL ESCALATE DRAMATICALLY.

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2. NO PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT WAS MADE IN THE PIRZADA/ GHAFOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING WHICH CONSIDERED THE DETAILS OF THE DRAFT ACCORD ON JUNE 30. AFTER THE MEETING, HA NEGOTIATOR GHAFOR TOLD SOME REPORTERS PRIVATELY THAT HE HAD REFUSED TO COMPROMISE ANY FURTHER AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO SIGN THE DRAFT AS IT IS OR THERE WOULD NOT BE AN AGREEMENT. THE

EVENING OF JUNE 30, PNA LEADER MUFTI MAHMUD MET THE PRIME MINISTER, AND BHUTTO REPORTEDLY TOLD MUFTI SAHIB THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD REACH AGREEMENT ON JULY FIRST IF THEY HAD TO NEGOTIATE ALL DAY. WE UNDERSTAND THE ONLY ISSUE STILL OUTSTANDING IS THE QUESTION OF THE AUTHORITY AND POWER OF THE IMPLEMENTATION COUNCIL WHICH WILL SUPERVISE THE CAMPAIGN AND THE ELECTION.

3. SPECULATION IS RIFE ON WHETHER AN AGREEMENT WILL BE ACHIEVED TODAY WITH MOST JOURNALISTS THINKING IT WILL, ON THE PREMISE THAT BHUTTO DOES NOT HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE. THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR, WHO HAS GENERALLY BEEN OPTIMISTIC THROUGHOUT THE TALKS AND WHO HAS PLAYED A CENTRAL MEDIATORY ROLE, TOLD THE DCM ON JUNE 30 THAT HE BELIEVED AN ACCORD WOULD BE SIGNED THE FOLLOWING DAY.

4. A NUMBER OF PNA LEADERS, INCLUDING THE USUALLY CAUTIOUS AND MODERATE MUFTI MAHMUD, SAID ON THURSDAY EVENING THAT FRIDAY IS THE LAST DAY OF NEGOTIATIONS AND EITHER AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED OR THE TALKS WILL COLLAPSE. ALTHOUGH THE PNA HAS MADE SIMILAR THREATS DURING THE PAST MONTH, THE GOVERNMENT, THE PRESS AND OTHERS HAVE NOTICED A DEGREE OF FINALITY IN THURSDAY NIGHT'S STATEMENTS THAT WAS FORMERLY MISSING.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ON SHORT NOTICE AND WITH THE PM'S KNOWLEDGE THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL ZIA-UL-HAQ, HELD A MEETING OF HIS SENIOR OFFICERS IN RAWALPINDI ON JUNE 30. GENERAL
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ARBAB, THE KARACHI CORPS COMMANDER ATTENDED, AND WE ASSUME GENERAL IQBAL, LAHORE CORPS COMMANDER, WAS THERE AS WELL. SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE EXPECTED WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS. IF A SETTLEMENT WERE NEAR, BHUTTO WOULD WANT TO INFORM THE ARMY OF ITS PARTICULARS. IF BHUTTO THOUGHT AN ACCORD WOULD NOT BE SIGNED, HE WOULD CONVOKE THE MILITARY TO DISCUSS PLANS TO COUNTER MAJOR DEMONSTRATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND.

6. THE PATIENCE OF PNA SUPPORTERS IS OBVIOUSLY WEARING THIN, ESPECIALLY IN THE MAJOR URBAN AREAS OF SIND AND PUNJAB. LARGE PROCESSIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO FOLLOW AFTERNOON PRAYERS TODAY IN PINDI, KARACHI AND LAHORE. AS REPORTED EARLIER, THE PNA HAS CALLED FOR A TOTAL TRANSPORTATION STRIKE IN KARACHI ON SATURDAY. WE ARE RECEIVING AN INCREASING NUMBER OF REPORTS OF VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN PPP AND PNA SUPPORTERS. TENSION AND ANIMOSITY BETWEEN THE TWO ANTAGONISTS ARE GROWING, AND IF AN ACCORD IS REACHED, ALL SIGNS POINT TO A MORE VIOLENT AND DESTRUCTIVE CAMPAIGN THIS TIME AROUND.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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